



Science for life

Fera

Date

14.11.25

Presenter

Adam Bedford

Welcome to Fera



Date

04.11.2025

Presenter

Andrew Swift

The Challenges of our time are more complex than ever.

Today's food, health and environmental systems face pressures that are more connected, more volatile and more demanding than ever before.

Leaders face overwhelming uncertainty – and a shortage of clarity.

We have to think and live differently

Agriculture is responsible for 90% of global deforestation and 70% of the planet's freshwater use.

Ten million hectares of forest are lost every year — roughly the size of Portugal.

We've also entered the planet's sixth mass extinction, with insect populations down 40% and animal populations decreasing by 70% in just fifty years.

Global deforestation linked to agriculture:

90%

Global freshwater use driven by food production:

70%

Hectares of forest lost every year:

10m

Decline of global animal populations over past 50 years:

70%

We have to 'drink' and live differently

Global sea levels have risen by no less than: 20mm in recent decades:

Antarctic sea ice is now 1.75 million km² lower than the 1986-2010 average.

Rise in global sea levels since 1990:

20mm

1,75km²

We will think and live differently

The UK still has one of the highest obesity rates in the world.

To reach a healthy average weight, the population would need to collectively lose around 400 million kilograms of fat.

Obesity now costs the UK at least £126 billion a year in healthcare, welfare, and lost productivity – a challenge for both the Department of Health and the Treasury.

UK's place in global obesity rankings:

#4

Annual cost of obesity to UK economy:

126bn

Increase in global obesity rates in the past 30 years:

2x

So What Is Fera Doing To Help?

Sustainable intensification of food production

We work with commercial and public sector organisations and NGOs to advance more sustainable approaches to food production. This includes supporting partners to understand soil health and water quality, accelerating the impact of alternative proteins and novel foods, and helping companies reduce plastics across manufacturing and packaging.

Improving food safety and reducing waste

We're developing tools to identify emerging risks in global food supply chains—helping businesses optimise value, strengthen consumer safety, and cut waste. Our laboratories around the world test samples to ensure food and environmental safety standards are met efficiently and consistently.

Restoring natural capital and biodiversity

We're using innovative technologies to optimise land use for greater productivity and ecological restoration. Working with governments, we help baseline ecosystems and support schemes that enable farmers and producers to access new revenue streams from biodiversity and carbon credits.



If It's Not Sustainable, It Won't Be Sustained.

The way we produce food must change. To feed future generations responsibly, we need to manage soil, water, and natural capital more sustainably than ever before.

Fera applies transformative science to reshape the global food system — turning evidence into action, and helping organisations build resilience in turbulent times.

Because there is no Planet B.



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Dr Andrew Swift

We're Fera.

An applied science leader.

We apply science for life, helping clients to solve the challenges that matter for people, business and the planet.

Fera